

University of Texas at Tyler

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The Patriot Talon

Student Newspapers

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12-8-2008

### Patriot Talon Vol. 40 Issue 13 (2008)

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# PATRIOT TALON



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Monday December 8, 2008

The University of Texas at Tyler

Vol. 40, Issue 13

## Administrators ask SGA for advice on alcohol policy

By Allen Arrick  
Editor in Chief

University officials met with the Student Government Association on Wednesday to discuss changes to the campus alcohol policy – which includes contacting parents if a student violates the policy, on or off campus.

David Hill, director of residence life and judicial affairs, handed out a draft of the policy update at the SGA's general assembly meeting for discussion and student input.

The draft policy states that a student's parent or

guardian will be notified on the second violation of either a minor in possession of alcohol or other alcohol related violations if the students are under 21-years-old.

"When I did some checking to see what other schools were doing, half the schools (in the UT system) were doing parental notifications," Hill said.

The draft policy was updated to include the second violation, instead of the first as originally penned by University officials.

Some SGA members suggested the policy only apply to on-campus violations, but Hill said it would be unlikely.

"I can only remember two alcohol related infractions that happened off campus – two in the five years I've been here," Hill said. "The vast majority happens on campus."

The heads of various student groups met with Dr. Howard Patterson, vice president of student affairs, on Nov. 13 to discuss the policy.

Patterson said the policy revision began when one parent complained about not being notified.

The policy will now go to the UT System Office of the General Council for legal approval, Hill said.

The OGC will review the policy language and legality as it applies to the Family Educational

Right and Privacy Act.

FERPA allows University officials to contact parents in the case of alcohol violations, but SGA members voiced their concern about privacy during the meeting Wednesday.

"On the one hand we need to protect student's privacy," Hill said. "On the other hand we have a responsibility for our students."

"What would I rather get in hot water for?" he asked, "invading someone's privacy or preventing injury?"

## Adams thinks big for University's co-rec program

By Elizabeth Barrett  
Contributing Writer

Kent State graduate Jameson Adams began his career at the University in May after being given the job of recreational sports programming coordinator.

He works with intramural sports, outdoor adventures and club sports at the University.

The *Talon* asked Adams about his job and the future of rec sports at the University.

**Where are you from and what brought you here?**

I am from Atlanta, Georgia. I was working at a school in upstate New York when I saw the posting for this job. I came to interview in March and officially started in May.

**What was your major in college?**



Adams

### UC CONSTRUCTION





### What was your major in college?

I went to Kent State in Kent, Ohio. My undergraduate degree was in sport management, and my graduate degree was in sport and recreation management.

### Is this what you saw yourself doing after graduation?

I knew that I wanted to be in the recreation field, but while I was in graduate school I was involved with the golf industry and thought I was going to work for a major equipment manufacturer. I interviewed for a position there but didn't get the job, so I get back into campus recreation and coaching baseball. This is actually the first year I haven't coached.

### What does Rec Sports do for the student body?

It does anything and everything. We can touch every student's life whether a student likes to play disc golf, just wants to come in and get a workout, was a former athlete and wants to play flag football, or just wants to come to our Wellness Education class every third Thursday of the month. We offer different opportunities for every kind of student.

### Tell me about the ski trip that is schedule for January.

A group of 42 students, four faculty members and two drivers will leave late on Jan. 4 headed toward Durango, Colo. Our first stop will be in Amarillo where we will eat breakfast, change drivers and head straight through Albuquerque, NM to Durango. Students have the option of skiing/snowboarding for two or three days, then head back. We are staying at Durango Mountain Resort in some rented condos. There is a full service kitchen so when we stop for groceries, you can get everything you would need to cook so you won't have to leave the mountain for food. It is going to be an annual event.

### What are some of your personal long-term goals?

Hopefully within the next year I will start doctorate work in educational leadership or sports administration. Eventually I want to be an athletic director at the collegiate level.

ADAMS » 5



**Construction workers** began blocking off parts of the University Center parking lot for equipment and materials storage Thursday. The UC expansion is scheduled to open Dec. 22, while the current UC will undergo renovation. University administrators are asking students, faculty and staff to enter the UC through the administration building for the time being.

TALON » MIKOSHA PHOENIX

## Faith n Campus

# Small groups fill spiritual void

*This story is part three of three in a series of articles about faith, religion and fellowship at the University*

**By Ashlie Osborn**

Staff Writer

The small enclaves of students who gather on campus most every Tuesday night discuss a wide range of topics- politics, philosophy or maybe just their daily struggles.

They share their experiences and opinions while searching for answers, or at least spiritual guidance in their Bibles opened in front of them.

The lessons they learn don't earn them course credit, but the knowledge they gain is valuable, nevertheless.

"It's filled a spiritual void in my life," Stephanie Sorich, a Wesley Foundation member said.

Campus ministers say college is a critical time in a person's life. With students away from their parents and familiar churches, faith-based campus organizations are available on and off campus to ease the transition.

University records show 76 registered student organizations on campus, of those, only six are faith based. Of the faith-based organizations only four also have off-campus connections.

Campus ministers said they focus their energy on college students to offer them a religious education not available through a state university.

"We really want to be here for the convicted and un-convicted," said Rev. Jeff Jordan, Reform University Fellowship campus minister.



### University student

Bethany Unger, left, and Rev. Dan Conway follow along as students read from the Bible during the Wesley Foundation Conversational Faith Dinner on Nov. 17.

TALON » CHRISTY GRANT

FAITH » 5

PULSE » 3 OPINION » 4 SPORTS » 8



# 2 » NEWS

## POLICE REPORTS

The following police reports were obtained from the University police department between Nov. 20 and Dec. 3.

Nov. 20 - A person reported something stolen at the Herrington Patriot Center. They later reported the items had been returned.

Nov. 24 - Police checked on a suspicious person lying in her car at Ornelas Activity Center. The person was arrested for aggravated assault against a police officer after evading arrest.

Nov. 24 - A disturbance was reported at the Physical Plant.

Nov. 25 - A disturbance was reported in parking Lot 6.

Nov. 26 - Police reported the entrance gate to parking Lot 17 near Ornelas Hall was damaged by being hit. An arrest was made.

Nov. 30 - A University police officer saw a fight between a black male and a white male at the Food Fast on Old Omen and University Drive. The white male fled the scene and was later apprehended by Tyler Police and charged with public intoxication.

Dec. 3 - A person's car was hit when the wind blew another car's door open in parking Lot 3.

### DREAM NATION

by LOUIS COPPOLA



Brothers Watt

william.h.wilson@uconn.edu

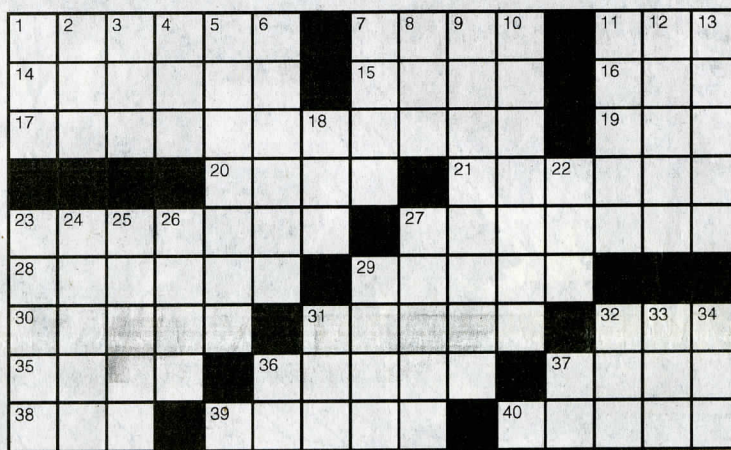
by William Wilson



## Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Ingredient in glass
- 7 October gem
- 11 Entirely
- 14 More uniform
- 15 Exude
- 16 Moo \_\_ gai pan
- 17 Look inducing
- 19 \_\_ been had!
- 20 Ross and Bering
- 21 Audience dividers
- 23 Grisham novel
- 27 Those calling forth



## In this week's Patriot Talon



» 10

### Few health benefits from energy drinks

Experts say look at the ingredients before consuming energy or "vitamin" beverages

» 6

### Happiness is contagious, study shows

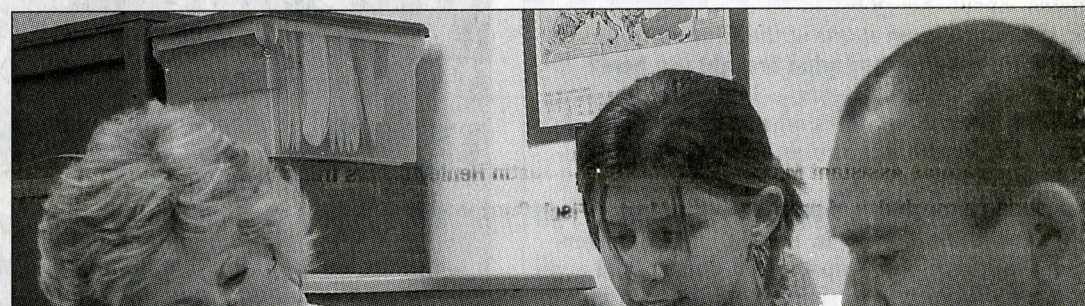
Being around happy people might induce the fun loving side of the brain

» 7

### Video game industry doing well despite recession

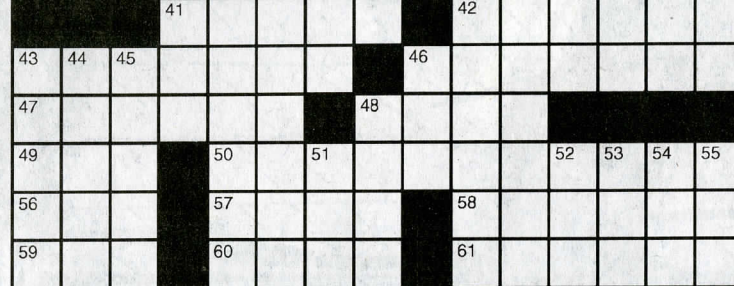
» 6

### Rev. Wright slams media for "limited horizons"





- 28 grits  
 29 Showy flower  
 30 Calling into play  
 31 Computer invader  
 32 Public vehicle  
 35 French mother  
 36 Animal with a fleshy proboscis  
 37 Rose or Fountain  
 38 Mas' men  
 39 Confused fight  
 40 River's end, often  
 41 Fathered  
 42 Tentative foray  
 43 Put the pedal to the metal  
 46 Green Bay team  
 47 Automotive safety device  
 48 Eyeball impolitely  
 49 \_\_\_ Plaines, IL  
 50 Nine-time Wimbledon champion  
 56 Conceit  
 57 Colorless  
 58 Sidestepped  
 59 Hideaway  
 60 Part of A&E  
 61 Plant new lawn



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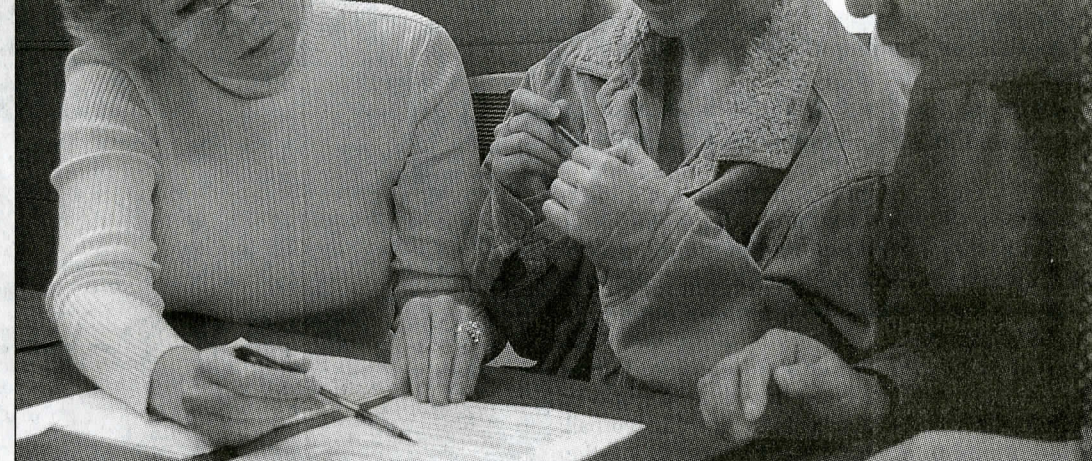
12/13/08

- 7 Sounds of wonder  
 8 Hawaiian dish  
 9 Crooner Charles  
 10 Untold numbers  
 11 Dexterous  
 12 Paramour  
 13 Fertile loam  
 18 Machinery part  
 22 Wild blue yonder  
 23 Blow with a blunt object  
 24 Minor prophet  
 25 Middle East leaders  
 26 Hunky-dory  
 27 Weird  
 29 \_\_\_ up (spoke)  
 31 Man's man  
 32 Ball attendee  
 33 Out-and-out  
 34 Chicago tower  
 36 "Tootsie" star  
 37 Look furtively  
 39 Satellite of Uranus  
 40 Mislead

## Solutions



- 41 Cry  
 42 Miss a step  
 43 Disappeared gradually  
 44 Feudal lord  
 45 Bean or Welles  
 46 Org. of Couples  
 48 Eyes, in poems  
 51 Dyeing tub  
 52 Notes of scales  
 53 Poetic piece  
 54 Neck shape  
 55 Tack on



TALON » MIKOSHA PHOENIX

Gail Johnson, left, an adjunct business professor helps seniors Shannon Love and John Silos create career strategies Friday during a Personal Branding Workshop in the Business Building for criminal justice students. Johnson collaborated with Brandicapped author Mel Epstein to create a personal branding workbook that will be used in the Career Manangement (MANA 4170) course geared to assist students create a personal brand which helps students create resumes and one minute statements which will "give students a jumpstart over other graduates."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Senior Art Exhibit

The University Art History Department seniors will be presenting their thesis exhibition at the Meadows Gallery until Dec. 19, 2008.

The exhibition will feature current works from seniors Kimberly J. Schaefer, Lakeshia Lilly, Edd Pamplin, Amanda Renner, Beth A. Condry, and Stephanie Goldsmith.

The Meadows gallery is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m Monday through Friday.

### Chautauqua Seminar

The College of Engineering and Computer Science will conduct a campuswide seminar to discuss the future of electronics.

The seminar is scheduled to be at 4 p.m., Tuesday in the Room 2024 of the Ratliff Building South.

Dr. Bruce Gnade, vice president for research at University of Texas Dallas will present "Materials and Processes for Flexible Electronics."

Chautauqua refers to a time in the late 1800s when people would gather to discuss issues.

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Talon Classified advertisements are free to students, faculty and staff and just \$5 per column inch for everyone else. See page 10 for order form or call 903-565-5536 to place your order today.



# Best of photojournalism

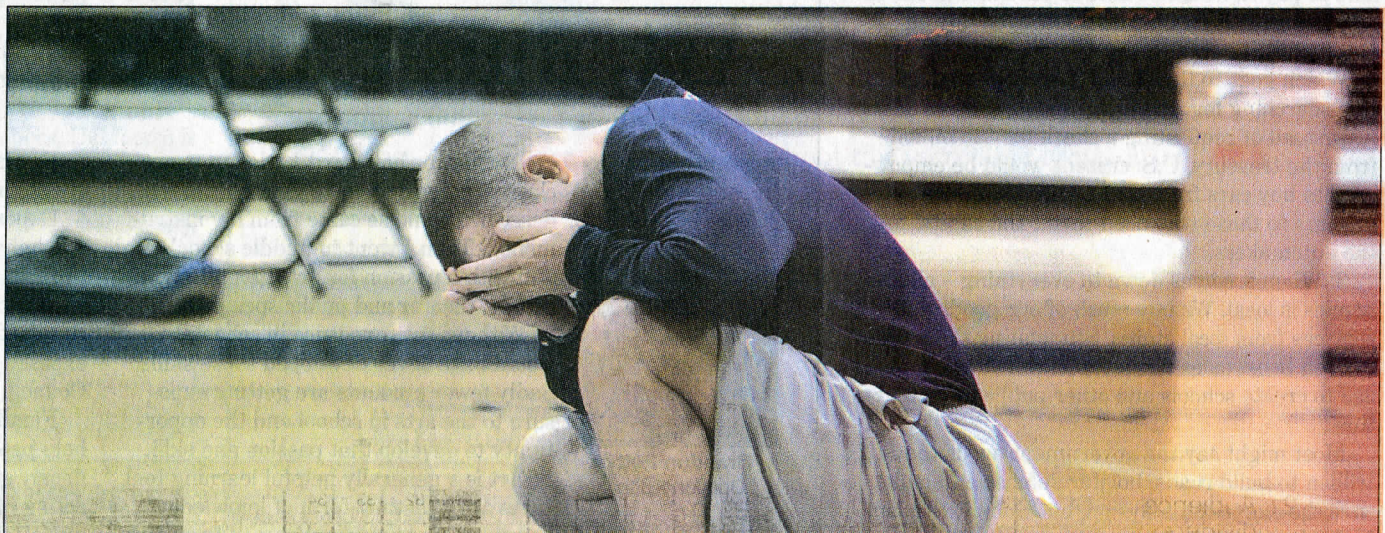
The top photos from JOUR 3360



TALON » MIKOSHA PHOENIX



TALON » JOSEPH SOLOMON



**Above** Phyllis Friar leads Sunday morning worship with the choir at East Gate New Prosperity Baptist Church in Wharton, Texas.

**Above Right** The men's soccer team celebrates after beating The University of Texas at Dallas in the ACS championship game on Nov. 9.

**Right** Patriots Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Justin Henley shows frustration



during a rough day of practice in the Maytee Fisch Convocation Center.

**Below** A child plays at Bergfeld Park on one of the last warm Saturdays of the season.



TALON » JOSEPH SOLOMON



TALON » WHITNEY ADAMS



TALON » CHRISTY GRANT



**Above** Jim Hoehn, of Weatherford, tells Jacob Self to hold on for a rough ride at the Red, White and Blue Festival in Bullard on Nov. 7.  
**Left** Converse All-Stars in the fall leaves.

TALON » MIKOSHA PHOENIX



4 » **OPINION****ECONOMICS**

# Gohmert's plan saves taxpayers \$6.5 trillion

Last week U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert from the Texas first district (that's here in East Texas) proposed eliminating income tax for the 2008 year.



**Allen Arrick**  
Editor in Chief

Gohmert's plan would not only reduce the so-called bailout for domestic corporations, it would stimulate local businesses and wealth-creators and revive our economy.

Gohmert's plan would essentially send \$1.2 trillion back into the bank accounts of every American who paid income tax this year, providing much needed relief.

Let's look at the reasons why:

1. For an individual who is either late on their mortgage or near foreclosure or bankruptcy, this tax break would allow them to invest in their home, instead of destroying their credit and living on the street.

Not only would this help the individual, the recipient of the money would ultimately be the bank responsible for their mortgage – the very companies Congress is content to bail-out.

2. Those who do not have a mortgage, or are able to pay it, would be able to purchase goods or services from local businesses or even buy an automobile.

Which goes to the U.S. automakers who are also searching for a bailout.

Instead of requesting a check for \$25 billion from the treasury, U.S. citizens would be empowered to buy cars from these manufacturers – giving cars to those who need them, and capital to the automakers.

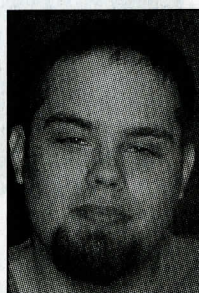
3. When it comes down to everything – all economics is local. We buy much of our goods and services from local stores. Stimulating the economy will boost sales tax revenue, which many cities use to create schools and other public infrastructure.

Most might say the government needs the \$1.2 trillion to build roads, bolster defense and make sure the electricity stays on, but Gohmert's plan is much cheaper in comparison to what Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is suggesting.

According to the Bloomberg news service, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and Paulson have prom-



## Art, music appreciation good for the soul



**Brandon Petty**  
Opinion Editor

No matter how hard I tried in music classes, only what could best be described as noise came from my instruments. Then I went to middle school, still with a passion for art, I found my calling, theater and public speaking.

Without that exposure in school, I would have never developed those skills. Sadly fewer students are getting exposure to the arts in school and the opportunity to develop that passion and skill.

Art is a generally helpful learning tool. "Arts are a distinct form of knowledge requiring sustained and demanding work and skill" author Denny Palmer Wolf says.

Exposure to the arts can yield positive results in other areas of education.

Exposure to the arts can also turn negative behavior into positive behavior.

High risk students who received exposure to the arts were more successful in standardized testing than those not exposed according to the Arts in Education Council.

Finally, music and other forms of art help people's mood. College is a horrendously stressful time for students. Perhaps acting in a play or playing an instrument is an escape for students who are inclined to participate.

Sadly, the University theater program was done away with. We have a band and choir but they do not get the attention that they deserve. Greek life is huge on campus but how many students know about the band fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi? I doubt very many.

So for those of you who rock out in your cars or play air guitar I ask you to step out of out safety zone.

If not participate in art activities, demand that there be more on campus and in town. It may cost a little more but the benefits outweigh the cost.



According to the Bloomberg news service, Fed Chairman Ben Bernake and Paulson have promised \$7.7 trillion to banks due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis.

Gohmert's plan would be \$6.5 trillion cheaper, and it would put those dollars back into the hands of U.S. citizens, not banks or automakers, to use as they please.

"There are many in and out of Washington who are comfortable with the subliminal message that we are ignorant, helpless minions who need an all-knowing, omniscient Treasury Secretary and Fed Chair to spend all our money for which our grandchildren will one day pay," Gohmert said.

He's right.

\$7.7 trillion is such an astronomical number that it's hard to wrap one's head around. That amount of money is 11 times Australia's GDP.

The old adage is that the people know how to spend their money better than the government does.

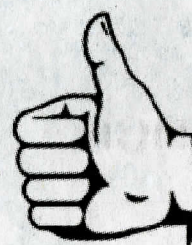
And while I don't know anyone inclined to buy Australia – maybe we need to think about that adage a little more carefully.

# Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down

O.J. Simpson to get up to 33 years in prison. For some reason it doesn't seem like enough.



Gas prices. For the first time ever, cost-per-gallon of gasoline isn't migraine-inducing.



Climate scientists at the Met Office in the United Kingdom say 2008 was the coolest year since 2000. Polar bears wipe off iceberg tears and rejoice to live another day.

## AUTOMAKERS BAILOUT

# Deaths of U.S. automakers would create a tsunami of jobs losses

By Bogdan Kipling  
(MCT)

WASHINGTON – America's Big Three automakers – General Motors, Ford and Chrysler – are at the brink and asking for government money to avert bankruptcy or a fire-sale takeover by whoever is courageous enough to buy the wrecks.

Three weeks ago, President-elect Barack Obama asked President George W. Bush to prop up the American auto industry on the ground that letting it collapse would devastate the American economy, conceivably beyond the point of repair.

He is right! The death of the industry that was the "arsenal of democracy" during World War II would plunge the United States into a prolonged recession and send an economic tsunami around the globe – likely decimating the economies of Canada, western Europe and Japan as well.

On Veterans Day, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid signed

on. The Bush administration, Pelosi said, "must take immediate action." The Democratic leadership group huddled in an emergency meeting at a time politicians normally devote to honoring veterans of all wars Americans have ever fought. But in Washington, this somber date was all about the living and the future, and never was the political cliché "What's good for General Motors is good for America" more apt.

A couple of weeks passed and Pelosi and Reid developed an acute case of waititis. Almost certainly they would have had the votes to pass the necessary legislation. But bristling with righteousness and spite for an unpopular industry, they insist on a plan for instant cure.

One can weigh the choice between preserving Wall Street's multi-million bucks bonuses and dividends or an industry power crucial to America's future as a power. But for me, the choice is clear.

The rationale for helping Detroit is unassailable. The auto industry's rapid demise would throw more than 3 million Americans out of work

in a hurry, a shock even the United States might not survive.

Although direct employment in car and automotive-parts plants is relatively low when measured against the total of jobs in the United States, the number of jobs dependent on the auto industry is enormous. From the corner tavern bartenders to college professors educating children of middle-class autoworkers, real people would feel the effects of incomes no longer there.

The potential economic devastation is so frightening, I think political leaders would not want to risk it. That is why Obama's request to Bush must be seen as a commitment to prevent economic catastrophe.

Helping Detroit will not be easy – for Bush or Obama. Americans don't like Detroit. "Over my dead body," they say, will they pay an industry that, they feel, let them down.

This unrelieved bleakness is not brightened even by the undeniable facts that American cars are much better now than they have ever been,

and that the car makers are not getting the credit they deserve. They have acquired a bad reputation, and the public still preferred a Toyota over a Chevy, even when they came off the same assembly line and their only difference was in the name plate.

Washington has successfully propped up the auto industry before. Car makers demanded tariff protection – and got it. Chrysler asked for a bailout in 1979 – and got it.

The bailout worked.

Chrysler recovered and blossomed. Harley Davidson was on the block and Washington stepped in. The totemic American motorcycle is now a legend.

These two examples must be kept before the eyes of the Congress, President Bush and President-to-be Obama as they decide whether to act or twiddle their thumbs.

America has no choice other than to save Detroit – a hard-nosed city that put the world on wheels.

### PATRIOT TALON STAFF

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**Letter Policy:** All contributions in good taste will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (300 words maximum), libel, profanity and personal attacks. All letters must contain the author's name, address, telephone number, academic classification and home town.

**Mission Statement:** The *Patriot Talon* is designed to inform, entertain, educate and heighten awareness of students, faculty and administrators at the University of Texas at Tyler. Staff members will be responsible journalists by maintaining high ethical standards with fairness, accuracy and balance.

The *Patriot Talon* encourages and provides an avenue for free flow of student expressions and opinions. The newspaper will serve as a learning tool to help students gain experience in all aspects of the print media.

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## Faith

from page 1

He said the organizations purpose is to spiritually connect with students through scripture, reach the lost and confused; equip them to be servant minded; and to serve God.

"We emphasize how we're made right before God and how we live before God," He said.

Jordan said the organization emphasizes grace, believes scripture applies in all walks of life and wants to teach students as part of the educational atmosphere in a way that can stand intellectual criticism.

Jordan said every Tuesday night his organization offers praise and worship time and an in-depth Bible study over New Testament book of Ephesians to help quench students' spiritual thirst.

The organization chooses a different book of the Bible every semester. By doing this they can truly understand the message conveyed in each book, he said.

Baptist Student Ministry director Joe Osteen said it is important for Christian students to get involved with a spiritual organization to support them in their spiritual quest.

He said students reach a point where they're not at home and they don't have anyone to keep them accountable for their decisions.

"The reason we do all these things is not to promote the BSM ... we want them to know that (various beliefs) doesn't separate them from a community and fellowship," campus missionary

Kenny Patterson said.

He said the greatest service the BSM has to offer is a caring Christian community of members wanting to see each student grow deeper in their faith.

"We want people to respond to the message of Christ and to his call," Osteen said.

To further instill the message of Christ, the BSM built a new venue on the corner of Patriot Drive and Varsity Drive. It is scheduled to open later this month for student fellowship, peaceful study time and other activities.

"What we hope first of all is it will be a home base for ministry on campus," Osteen said.

He said next semester BSM officials plan to have evening worship services, concerts and staff meetings in the 3,500-square-foot main room.

"We're willing to do that because we really want to reach out," Osteen said.

He said the new facility's two main functions are to help build a community of caring students and to provide a place to organize and plan campus ministry.

"We're here to stay and we hope to be consistent by sharing the love of Christ on campus," Osteen said.

To further show their devotion to serve, the BSM offers free lunch every Monday that costs the organization or sponsoring churches an average of \$400 to \$500 each week, he said.

"Christ came to be a servant and to serve and we try to im-



TALON » CHRISTY GRANT

University students Megan Kelly, right, and Denise Brooks prepare for a Bible reading at the Wesley Foundation Conversational Faith Dinner.

late that," Osteen said.

The BSM is not the only organization offering students free food-the Wesley Foundation has a weekly Conversational Faith Dinner, along with an in-depth Bible study.

Rev. Dan Conway said the main goal of the Wesley Foundation is to "find faith in the journey, life in the community and Christ in you."

Although the Wesley Foundation came from the Methodist denomination, Conway said the group does not have to agree on every religious theory, but must maintain an attitude of respect for each other.

"Our main focus is on Jesus and the Bible," Conway said.

He said during the organiza-

tions dinners members do not place an emphasis on a particular denomination.

Instead, each week members study two chapters of a particular book of the Bible.

He said people must remain respectful and understand other students are at different places on their spiritual journey through life.

Conway said the group is open to any student interesting in their fellowship, Christ and the Bible.

The Wesley Foundation also provides a Sunday night college worship service at Fairwood United Methodist Church on Old Omen Road.

Two other faith-based groups offer University students an

opportunity for spiritual guidance.

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and members of the local Catholic Dioceses are two other faith-based ministries helping students find their "home base" on campus.

"Every student that is here on this campus, is here for a reason," Ross Baker, Chi Alpha campus minister and University graduate said. "We just kind of want to be a beacon of truth."

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship's off-campus location at 2603 Old Omen Road ministers to student at the University and at Tyler Junior College.

"Our reason to focus on this age group is that they (students) are forming a foundation for the rest of their lives," Baker said.

Although Chi Alpha is not registered as an on-campus student organization for the fall semester, Baker said the organization plans to register in the spring.

Baker said Chi Alpha got its name from a verse in the biblical book of Corinthians, in which the two Greek letters Chi and Alpha represent the phrase "Christ's sent ones."

He said the organization is non-denominational and wants to serve students from all faiths.

Chi Alpha organizers provide weekly Bible studies in their off-campus location.

Although the locations vary from organization to organization, each group has an equal desire to share the gospel with University students.

For example, Virginia Rounds, a parishioner in the local Catholic Diocese of Tyler said fellow believers also are ministering to students on campus to get them involved in the Catholic community.

"One of the main purposes is to keep students in contact with what they need," Rounds said. "It's an important time in their life and they need a home base."

She said there is a "world of death" and a "world of life" and students need to find the right path and a common place to fellowship.

Rounds said participating believers minister at informal meetings to give students religious options while they are away from the accountability of their parents.

"They need to re-examine their faith walk and accept it as adults," Rounds said. "It's a way to connect them with people that can help them do that."

The campus parishioners do not have an organized on-campus student organization, but plans to in the future, Rounds said.

For right now students must meet in various locations around campus. However, University officials have drafted an Interfaith Chapel into the 2003 master building plan in hopes of one day having a designated place for faith on campus.

Officials are planning to construct the facility in the future and are actively searching for private donations.

## Adams

**What are some of Rec Sports' long-term goals?**

We hope to keep expanding our program as well as offering different opportunities throughout club sports. We are hoping to purchase equipment for outdoor adventures such as camping gear so that if you want to go camping, you can rent everything from the tent to cookware to do so. I could also lead camping trips. We are working with SGA right now to try and get our own intramural field, that way students and athletes don't have to compete for one field to play or practice on. It will be a field specifically there for student use for anyone who wants to just throw a football around and things like that. We

really want to serve the whole student body.

**What do you think is the most popular activity that Rec Sports sponsors and why?**

For outdoor adventures, it is easily our skydiving trip just because it's something new and challenging. Within intramurals, flag football is big. Our club soccer is the largest club team.

**Tell me about your skydiving experience.**

The group we took out on Oct. 18 of this semester was my first time to skydive. The only reason I even did it was because it wouldn't cost me anything because I took a group. I was the last one to go out of a group of 17 students, so I waited 16 hours. Let's

just say, it wasn't a traditional skydive. When I jumped, I started spinning while free falling. The instructor I jumped with released the parachute at 6,500 feet as opposed to the recommended 5,000, so it was not normal. I think the fact that I was so much taller than my instructor was had something to do with the spinning. It was funny to watch on video. We're going to be putting it on YouTube soon and probably our website as well.

**What's up with all of the table tennis tables?**

It all goes back to Dr. Patterson and Dr. Mabry and how attentive they are to the students' needs. We saw that students wanted to play Ping Pong and

were able to get the funds to meet that need. Originally we started out with two tables and saw that students were waiting around to play, so in October we bought two more tables. That's just one example where the administration saw that there was a need for the students and met that need. We really didn't think that it would grow like it has, but we had 32 students in our Ping Pong tournament. Most days the tables are busy from noon until 11 p.m. when we close up. The tennis guys are unbelievable when they play and a lot of the baseball guys play as well. Also, if Wes and I need to take a break or just chat for a bit, we can go play and it's a fun stress reliever.

from page 1



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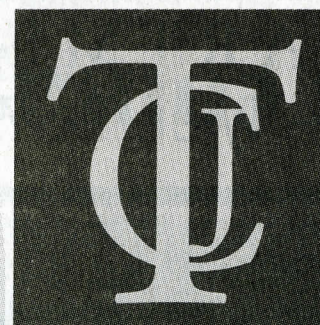
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## 6 » NEWS

## Happiness is contagious, British study shows

By Judith Graham  
Chicago Tribune  
(MCT)

You may think your attentive spouse, your loving children and your good friends are what make you happy. But something else may be going on: The people they're connected with are making you happy too.

So suggests a new study proposing that happiness is transmitted through social networks, almost like a germ is spread through personal contact. The research was published Thursday in *BMJ*, a British medical journal.

It's the latest in a growing body of work investigating how our social connections – neighbors, friends, family, co-workers, fellow congregants at church and other associates – affect us. The premise is that we live in a social environment that shapes what we do and how we think and feel.

"We've known for some time that social relationships are the best predictor of human happiness, and this paper shows that the effect is much more powerful than anyone realized," said Daniel Gilbert, author of "Stumbling on Happiness" and a professor of psychology at Harvard University.

Previous research by the authors, James Fowler of the University of California-San Diego, and Dr.

Nicholas Christakis at Harvard, has concluded that social networks influence obesity and tobacco use by altering perceptions of acceptable weight and desirable behavior.

Now they've turned their attention to the emotional realm, exploring how social ties influence our moods and our sense of well-being. Their primary finding: People who are surrounded by happy people are more likely to be happy themselves. And it's not only people in our immediate circles who make a difference – it's the people surrounding the people we know.

Imagine several pebbles thrown into a pool of water that send ripples outward, said Fowler, an associate professor of political science. Each pebble represents a happy person and the waves the impact of that person's mood on others. This impact, his study found, extends through several degrees of separation, to the friends of a person's friends.

Some experts question whether the researchers' statistical methodology can support that conclusion. It's difficult to sort out cause and effect in this kind of research and the authors may not have done so with enough rigor, said Charles Manski, a Northwestern University economics professor who studies how inferences can be drawn from social interactions.

He asks, is it that one person's happiness makes another person happy, or could it be that another factor experienced by both people is affecting both?

Say two friends are watching a TV show together, and one laughs after the other does, Manski said. It may look like the first person's chuckle is the cause of the second, but the jokes on the TV show might inspire both reactions.

Christakis said his research factored out such mutual influences. The study asked the subjects – 4,739 participants in the famous Framingham Heart Study in Massachusetts – to complete a survey including four questions relating to happiness three times between 1983 and 2003. They also provided information about social contacts, which allow researchers to map their connections.

The study found that happy people form clusters and the happiest people are those most centrally located in the clusters.

"If you imagine the fabric of humanity as a patchwork quilt, it turns out if you're happy or not depends on if you're in a happy or unhappy patch," Christakis said.

"We postulate that people who are in closer, more frequent contact with each other are more susceptible to catching each other's moods," Fowler said.

The researchers stress that personal factors

such as jobs or marriages also affect happiness and that although happiness may fluctuate, people tend to return to a personal happiness "set point" over time. It is this relatively stable emotional condition they examined in the paper, not the fleeting moods people experience day to day.

Richard Suzman, director of the division of behavior and social research at the National Institute on Aging, said the line of research holds "enormous promise in helping us improve interventions aimed at helping people change behaviors and improving public health."

Such interventions may involve targeted programs designed to alter social networks that influence behavior. The institute on aging has provided funding for Fowler and Christakis' work.

An editorial accompanying the report in *BMJ* called its conclusions "intriguing" but advised caution. Framingham, a relatively small community, may prove unique in ways not yet understood, wrote Peter Sainsbury, director of population health in Sydney South West Area Health Service in Australia.

As for whether unhappiness is also spreadable, Fowler and Christakis plan to look at that topic in upcoming papers on loneliness, depression and social networks.

## Wright questions media's 'limited horizons' in sermon

By Manya A. Brachear  
Chicago Tribune  
(MCT)

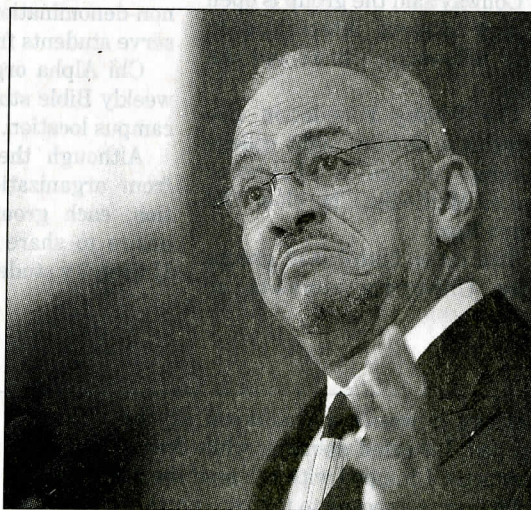
CHICAGO – For the first time since his retirement last spring, Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. returned to the pulpit of Trinity United Church of Christ on Sunday with two goals: glorifying God and vilifying the media.

In honor of Trinity's 47th anniversary, Wright preached three worship services in place of Rev. Otis Moss III, who was attending his father's farewell from the pulpit of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Citing the revelation to Mary by the angel Gabriel that she would conceive a child to be born the Son of God, Wright said Mary's disbelief was similar to the doubts some faithful shared about the future of Trinity after Wright's retirement and the possibility of a black man being elected president.

"Our legitimate questions tend to be asked from the vantage point of limited horizons," said Wright during the 7:30 a.m. service. "Mary had a limited horizon. She couldn't see how it was possible."

"In almost every instance where I have encountered this phenomenon, what I have discovered is that the limited horizons are caused by the tendency to look for a person to provide you with answers



MCT/ » CHUCK KENNEDY

for your legitimate questions," Wright continued. "I really should say our legitimate questions, not your legitimate questions, because God knows I've got some questions myself."

Wright, Trinity's former pastor, gained prominence when President-elect Barack Obama in his memoirs cited the pastor's inspirational sermons.

But shortly after Wright's final appearance in the

pulpit at Trinity last February, he became the center of controversy when segments of past sermons surfaced on the Internet and replayed on cable news programs. Pundits questioned his patriotism based on sound bites, including one where he shouted "God damn America!"

The resulting media onslaught fueled tension around an already sensitive transition and prompted Moss, Wright's hand-picked successor, to implement strict guidelines for the media, banning cameras and recording devices and instructing members not to grant interviews.

On Sunday, church officials turned reporters away from the worship service. But services were streamed live on the Internet, and audio and video recordings were sold in the church bookstore.

Wright said no amount of media coverage could dampen Trinity spirit.

"Jesus said upon this rock I will build – listen to the promise – my church," he said. "And the gates of Hell – listen to the promise – the gates of Hell – neither ABC nor CNN – the gates of Hell – neither Hannity nor O'Reilly – the gates of Hell – neither Time, Time magazine, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune ... the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. Nothing will be impossible with God."

At the 11 a.m. service, Wright belittled "baby

milk believers," who, he said, suffer a delusion that politics don't belong in the pulpit. He pointed out that "Luke the evangelist, not Wright the radical lambasted the oppressive policies of the Roman government in the Gospel story that recounts Jesus' life."

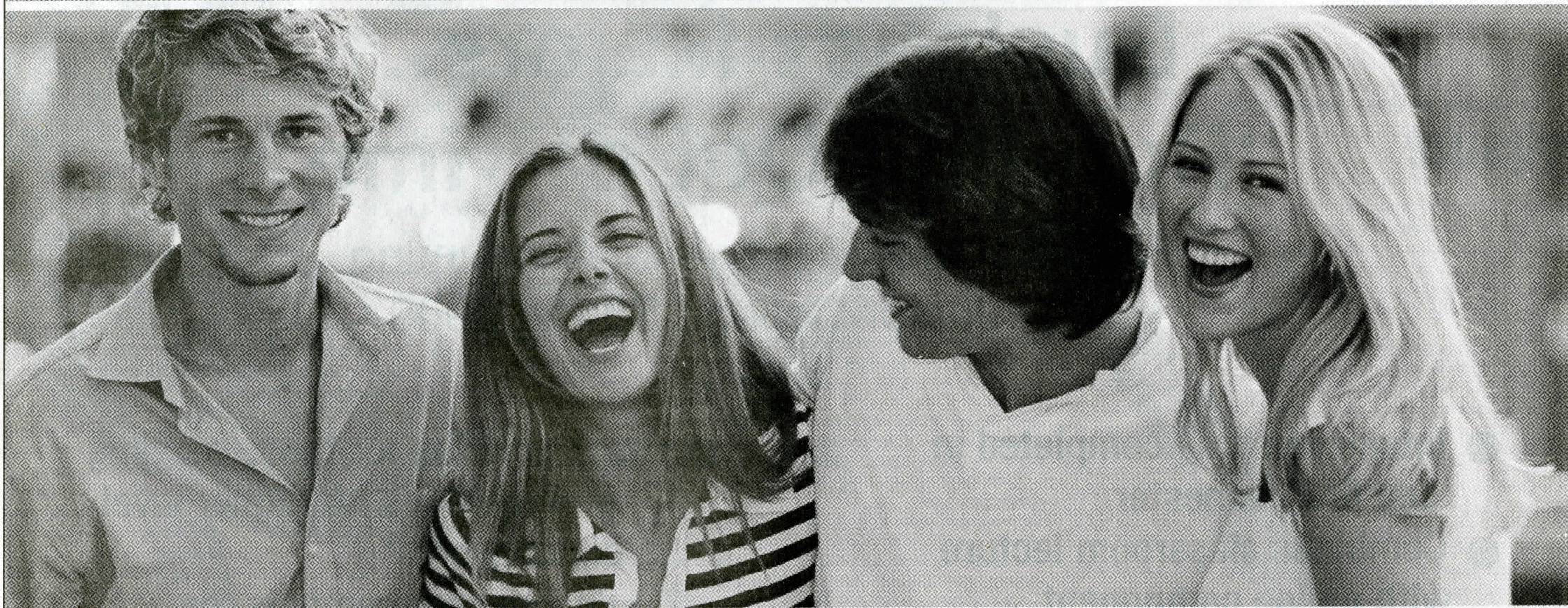
"Any preacher who dares to point out the simple ugly facts found in every field imaginable is demonized as volatile, controversial, incendiary, inflammatory, anti-American and radical," Wright said, taking time out to note the thousands of Japanese civilians who died 67 years to the day when American troops dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

He implied that his previous use of derogatory language to describe Italians in a past sermon referred to the Roman oppression Luke condemned.

"Emperor Augustus in Rome – that's in Italy, dizzy blond on the View," Wright said, presumably referring to conservative television personality Elisabeth Hasselback, who has railed about Wright on the ABC daytime talk show.

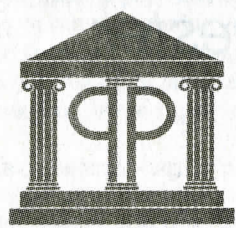
Wright also thanked an employee at Fox News – "a saint in Caesar's household" – who advised him to cancel his October speaking engagements because the network had an advance copy of his schedule.





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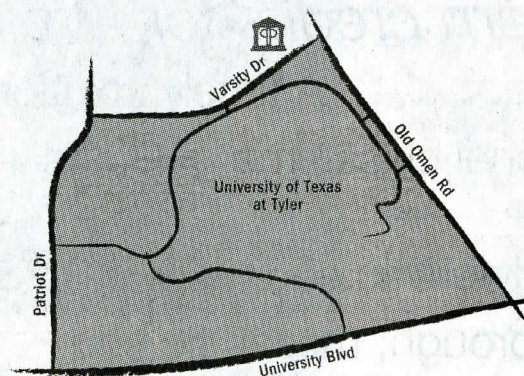
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# Video game industry hits right buttons in troubled economy

By Victor Godinez

The Dallas Morning News  
(MCT)

DALLAS – Bailouts, bankruptcies, liquidations and layoffs have been the business buzzwords over the last few months, but the videogame industry remains stubbornly resistant to the gloom enveloping the rest of the economy.

While game industry executives and analysts aren't ignoring the broader economic trends, all the evidence seems to point to a robust holiday season for game makers and sellers and continued prosperity next year.

Part of the explanation for videogames' continuing popularity, game insiders say, is the "nesting" effect, in which cash-strapped consumers stop going out and look for ways to entertain themselves at home.

"Clearly, interactive entertainment is a great value in a down economy," said Dan DeMatteo, chief executive at Grapevine, Texas-based GameStop Corp., the largest standalone game retailer in the world.

The numbers seem to bear that out.

In October, videogame sales jumped 18 percent, according to market research firm NPD Group.

November has been solid, too, as GameStop said in its quarterly earnings conference call this month that initial signs for the fourth quarter are positive.

There are other signs that games remain as popular and lucrative as ever.

Blizzard Entertainment Inc. said that Wrath of the Lich King, the latest expansion for its popular World of Warcraft online game, sold more than 2.8 million copies in the first 24 hours after it was released on Nov. 13.

Blizzard said the sales avalanche made Lich King the fastest-selling PC game of all time.

Microsoft Corp. has also done blockbuster business in the last few weeks.

The shooting game Gears of War 2 for Microsoft's Xbox 360 console went on sale Nov. 7, and sold more than 2 million copies over the week-end.

Generally, any game that sells more than 1 million copies is considered a big success.

And almost anything sold by Nintendo Co. remains a hot commodity, especially the new Wii Fit exercise game for the Wii console, with GameStop and other retailers reporting essentially instant

sellouts as copies hit shelves.

That's not to say the game industry is ignoring the trends in other industries.

"We have some concerns about the short term," DeMatteo said, noting that GameStop has frozen hiring at its corporate offices. "We're watching expenses as anybody would prudently do."

Arvind Bhatia, a game industry analyst in Dallas with Sterne Agee, said it's unrealistic to assume that games will be completely unscathed by the broader economy.

"I think we're going to see relative outperformance (compared with the rest of the economy), but I don't think the industry is immune," he said. "To think there will be zero impact is not right, in my opinion."

GameStop did lower slightly its projected earnings for the fourth quarter when it released the third-quarter numbers and said it will open fewer stores next year, after opening more than 600 in 2008.

Electronic Arts Inc., one of the largest game publishers, reported a second-quarter loss of \$310 million last month, much worse than the \$195 million loss in the same period a year earlier.

Even so, EA did increase its sales to \$894 million in the quarter from \$640 million.

GameStop's DeMatteo said industry sales are forecast to grow 10 percent to 15 percent next year.

That's a best-case scenario, he conceded.

But if people continue nesting next year, "we could have a best-case scenario," he said.

Some analysts think GameStop is much too conservative in its official outlook.

"The company's total sales growth guidance is pessimistic to the point of being ridiculous," Wedbush Morgan analyst Michael Pachter wrote in a report Nov. 21.

Pachter said he expects holiday software sales to be "robust" and said GameStop probably is equally confident internally.

"We believe that management is intent upon setting expectations that it can easily beat, and expect GameStop to do so."

Regardless of the specific numbers, DeMatteo is clearly bullish on the business.

"I think we're being prudently cautious given the environment we're in," he said. "But strategically, long range, do we believe videogames are a robust, growing industry? Absolutely. How could you come to any different conclusion?"



MCT/DALLAS MORNING NEWS » JENN ACKERMAN

Lisa Collins, from left, Matt Petri, Phil Lor and Mike Ortega shop at GameStop at Northpark Mall in Dallas, Texas, during their lunch break, Nov. 20. While most industries are seeing a downturn in sales due to the slow economy, the gaming industry has had an increase in sales.



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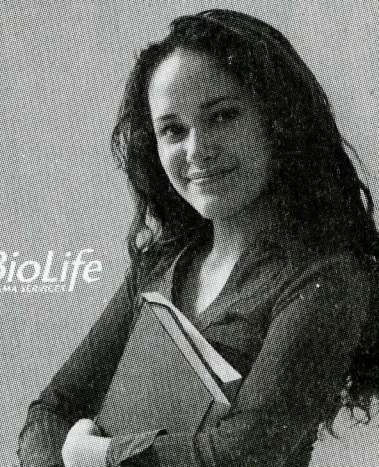
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# 8 » SPORTS



## Men's Basketball

Nov. 25 @ Arlington  
UT Arlington 99  
UT Tyler 67

Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Texas-Tyler	35	32	- 67
UT Arlington	50	49	- 99

### SCORERS:

Anthony Reese - 19 points  
Marlon Hill - 17 points  
Michael Johnson - 11 points  
Hakeem Kareem - 6 points  
Larry Ware - 5 points  
Brent Creacy - 3 points  
Travan Porchia - 3 points  
Matthew McDonald - 2 points  
T.J. Shaw - 1 point

Nov. 29 @ Seguin  
UT Tyler 83  
Texas Lutheran 70

Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Texas-Tyler	39	44	- 83
Texas Lutheran	28	42	- 70

### SCORERS:

Marlon Hill - 20 points  
Anthony Reese - 19 points  
Michael Johnson - 14 points  
Hakeem Kareem - 12 points  
Larry Ware - 8 points  
Josh Twine - 4 points  
Dexter McMarion - 2 points  
Matthew McDonald - 2 points  
Kevin Murray - 2 points

Dec. 1 @ Kerrville  
UT Tyler 71  
Schreiner 57

Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Texas-Tyler	33	38	- 71
Schreiner	17	40	- 57

### SCORERS:

Anthony Reese - 13 points  
Marlon Hill - 9 points  
Kevin Murray - 8 points  
Josh Twine - 8 points  
Larry Ware - 8 points

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Patriots start conference season at 4-0

By Clay Ihlo

Staff Writer

The Patriots remain undefeated in conference play after back-to-back home wins last week over Hardin-Simmons (80-66) and McMurry (66-22).

The wins marked the first time in program history the Patriots began conference play 4-0.

Saturday's game against McMurry wasn't easy. McMurry senior Jonathan Walker proved to be the Patriots' biggest threat by scoring eight of McMurry's first 10 points.

The Patriots fought back with senior guard Anthony Reese scoring eight consecutive points. The lead seesawed throughout the half with eight lead changes and seven ties with the largest lead being only four points.

The half ended with the Patriots down 35-32 after McMurry guard Robert Moreno drained a three from half court.

McMurry's Walker led all players with 17 points in the first half, shooting 7-10 from the floor and making both attempted threes. Reese led the Patriots with 13 points.

The second half started just like it ended with each team answering the other. However, with 17 minutes left McMurry went on a 9-1 run and took a 50-42 lead.

The Patriots went almost six minutes without scoring and got back in the game with 11 minutes when they started their own 12-1 run. They took the lead back with 8:58 left thanks to back-to-back threes from Larry Ware and Brent Creacy.

Play remained tight for the remainder of the game with each team trading baskets. Eventually McMurry regained the lead with just less than two minutes left in the game. The Patriots retook the lead 40 seconds later with the help of some key offensive rebounds and a corner three from Marlon Hill.

After a McMurry offensive foul and long three from Reese as the shot clock ran out, the game was all but over. McMurry was forced to foul, which left them with little time to score.

The Patriots closed out the game and sent McMurry home with a loss.

Reese led all scorers with 24 points and had six rebounds as well. McMurry had three players in double figures with Walker leading the team with 23 points.

Patriots' coach Kenny Bizot attributed the win to big offensive rebounds late in the game and to Reese's play.

With the loss, McMurry fell to 2-1 in conference play and 2-2 overall.

### Patriots vs. Hardin-Simmons.

Thursday night's game began with junior forward Hakeem Kareem stealing the show for the Patriots, scoring seven of the Patriot's first nine points.

The Cowboys stuck with the Patriots however, thanks to Mark Schlott, who hit a pair of threes to give the Cowboys a 17-14 lead.



TALON » KYLE G. HORST

Patriot Michael Johnson catches a rebound among three McMurry point guards. The Patriots won their Saturday afternoon game 66-62.

MEN » 9

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Josh Twine - 8 points  
 Larry Ware - 8 points  
 Dexter McMarion - 7 points  
 Michael Johnson - 6 points  
 Brent Creacy - 6 points  
 Hakeem Kareem - 4 points  
 Travan Porchia - 2 points

## Women's Basketball

Nov. 29 @ Seguin  
 UT Tyler 82  
 Texas Lutheran 64

Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Texas-Tyler	49	33	- 82
Texas Lutheran	32	32	- 64

### SCORERS:

Melissa Thomas - 31 points  
 Becky Taylor - 17 points  
 Marzetta Shepard - 15 points  
 Lindsay Hausmann - 7 points  
 Lindsay Eaton - 6 points  
 Marci Trogus - 6 points

Dec. 1 @ Kerrville  
 UT Tyler 88  
 Schreiner 73

Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Texas-Tyler	43	45	- 88
Schreiner	22	51	- 73

### SCORERS:

Melissa Thomas - 33 points  
 Marzetta Shepard - 16 points  
 Becky Taylor - 15 points  
 Marci Trogus - 11 points  
 Lindsay Eaton - 6 points  
 Sarah Welling - 3 points  
 Staci Hankins - 2 points  
 Lindsay Hausmann - 2 points

## ASC Weekly Awards

### Women's Basketball

American Southwest  
 Conference East Division Co-  
 Player of the Week

### Melissa Thomas

Earned the honor after scoring 31 points on Nov. 29 against Texas Lutheran and 33 points on Dec. 1 against Schreiner, leading the Patriots to a 2-0 start in conference play. Thomas became just the fifth player in program history to score 30 or more points in a game. Thomas shared the East Division honor with East Texas Baptist's Satara Harrell while Amber Horton of McMurry earned the honor for the West Division.



TALON » KYLE G. HORST

**Patriot** freshman Marzetta Shepard, left, runs around a Hardin-Simmons player to score a layup. The Patriots won their game against the Cowgirls on Thursday evening at the Herrington Patriot Center.

# McMurry edges Patriots in Saturday home game

By Jeremy Cotham  
 Sports Editor

Senior Marzetta Shepard's jumper with three seconds left in the game rimmed out giving the Patriots a heartbreaking 66-65 loss Saturday to McMurry University.

Just 11 seconds before that, McMurry's Amber Horton gave her team the lead when she hit a jumper while using her left hand and being fouled at the same time. Horton missed the free-throw to set up Shepard to try for the game-winning shot.

Patriots' Coach Terri Deike said she drew up the play for her senior and the shot just did not go down.

"We got out-muscled today on the boards and ourselves in this situation to not have as good a game as we usually do," Deike said. "We drew up a play for Marzetta to try and get a lay-up on that last play but it just was not meant to be. It was not our day."

With the win, McMurry remained undefeated in American Southwest Conference play with a record of 3-0 and 4-1 overall.

"It's a great big win for us. We knew we were in

for a dogfight today, especially against UT Tyler because they are the favorites in the ASC East," said McMurry coach Veronica Snow. "On the game-winning shot for us, we just wanted to get the ball in the hands of our best player and Amber made a great play and did what she does best. That was huge for us."

Horton led all McMurry players with 18 points while Allison Nelson added 16. For the Patriots (5-2, 3-1 in conference), they only had one player in double digits with Shepard scoring a game-high 24 points and eight steals, which tied her career-high.

Patriots' Becky Taylor had arguably her worst game statistically this season when she finished the game with five points and six rebounds. Before that, Taylor had recorded a double-double in every game and came into the game averaging 16.7 points and 14.7 rebounds per game.

On Saturday, McMurry came out shooting on fire, making seven of its first nine shots en route to a 29-14 lead with 8:04 remaining in the first half.

The Patriots, however, responded with a 22-5 run to retake the lead at 36-34 with just 34 seconds left in the half. McMurry then closed the first half out

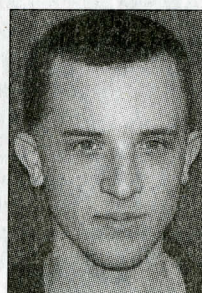
WOMEN » 9

# 'Red' Murff: the legend of baseball legends

Most baseball fans from my generation probably don't recognize the name John Robert "Red" Murff or realize his connection to our University.

Murff spent most of his professional baseball career in the Minor Leagues — recording a no-hitter in 1951 and working a 19 2/3-inning game one year later.

He made his Major League debut in 1956 with the Milwaukee Braves and was with the team when it won the World Series against the New York Yankees in 1957. A back injury kept him from earning a ring, but during his career he did get to play against Hank Aaron, the former all-time home run champion.



Jeremy Cotham  
 Sports Editor

As a pitcher, Murff is on an exclusive list of Major League pitchers who collected a base hit before earning a victory. He appeared in 26 games for the Braves, finishing with a 2-2 record and a 4.65 earned run average. But Murff, as I soon learned, is best known as the New York Mets scout who "discovered" pitching great Nolan Ryan at Alvin High School.

Ryan thanked Murff in his 1999 Hall of Fame induction speech in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"I am proud to say that Red is a friend and that Red took more of an interest in me at an early age," Ryan said. "He saw me at

6'2" and 140 pounds, and he wasn't discouraged by my build ... and I appreciate the fact that Red spent so much time with me and worked to help me become a better pitcher."

Murff retired after 34 years as a scout and moved to Tyler and in 2003 took an interest in Patriots baseball when he met his neighbor, Athletic Director James Vilade.

"Red loved baseball and I loved it as well and we hit it off," Vilade said. "Early on in our program, Red was the only person who supported our team and our players. He was instrumental with having a scouting day and getting our players ready for professional ball and it really helped them out."

In 2006, Vilade said he honored Murff with the inaugural

Food Fast Lifetime Achievement Award. One of the last games Murff saw was on April 12 when the Patriots' Kyle Braden hit a walk-off homerun against Louisiana College in a 6-5 win, Vilade said.

Murff died of natural causes on Nov. 28 in a Tyler nursing home. Vilade said his friend had suffered a stroke and a heart attack in the past and also had Parkinson's disease.

Vilade said he often visited Murff at the nursing home and Ryan also visited just before Murff died.

"I would go pick him up and we would go see a high school game or my son's game and we would tell each other baseball stories. We talked a lot about the game and about the places he has been and who he had met," Vilade

said.

"To share a lot of time in the game with Red over these last few years was really special for me. I am going to miss him for sure because he was really special," he said. "Baseball was a huge part of his life. It was a part that he spent a long time in the game and he taught me to take care of the game and share it with others."

I learned a lot about Murff from Vilade. It sounds like I missed out on meeting a great advocate of the game.

Murff spoke of his love of the game in his book "The Scout: Searching for the Best in Baseball."

"Thank you, God, for baseball and its wonderful people and all the game has done for me and meant to me. God, I do love it so!"



# NEWS 9

## Women

from page 8

with a 5-0 run to go into the locker room with a 39-36 lead.

Eventually, the Patriots built its biggest lead at six when Marci Trogus scored a basket to get her team up 63-57 with 4:28 remaining. Over the next two minutes, McMurry ran off five straight points to cut the deficit to 63-62 before Shepard extended the Patriots lead to 65-62.

With 1:12 remaining, Horton was fouled and went to the free-throw line to make both shots, cutting into the lead at 65-64. Less than one minute later is when Horton drove to her left, got fouled and got the shot off the backboard to record the go-ahead score at 66-65.

### Patriots vs. Hardin-Simmons

The loss to McMurry comes on the heels of Thursday night's first-ever win against Hardin-Simmons University.

Thanks in part to 30 points by Shepard, the Patriots rolled over the Cowgirls 83-64.

Adding to that win, Taylor added 16 points and pulled down a school-record 22 rebounds, breaking her own record of 17 rebounds, which was set earlier this season. That performance also continued her streak of double-double's to open the season at six.

Overall, as a team, the Patriots out-rebounded the Cowgirls 64-34 with Lindsay Eaton getting 11 rebounds while adding nine points.

The Patriots also had two other scorers in double figures in Melissa Thomas and Trogus who both scored 11 each.

Mollie Brawner led the way for the Cowgirls (3-2, 1-2 in conference) with 19 points.

The women return to action tonight when Jarvis Christian College comes to the Herrington Patriot Center for a 5:30 p.m. tip-off. In the first game of the season, the Patriots defeated Jarvis in Hawkins by a score of 88-73.

On Saturday, the Patriots return to conference play when they travel to Concordia University in Austin for a 1 p.m. start.

Currently, the Patriots sit in second place in the ASC East Division after The University of Texas at Dallas rolled to a 4-0 start in conference play. On Saturday, the Lady Comets defeated Howard Payne University, the defending NCAA Div. III National Champion, by a score of 77-55. It ended Howard Payne's 39-game overall winning streak and their 30-game conference winning streak.

Howard Payne comes to Tyler to face the Patriots on Jan. 8.

## Men

from page 8

The Patriots would regain the lead later in the half largely due to sophomore Michael Johnson, who hit three consecutive three-pointers to give the Patriots a 27-21 lead with about six minutes left in the half.

The Cowboys refused to go away however. Terrence Willis and Steven Luckey of the Cowboys took over for their team scoring the last 15 points of the half.

The first half ended with the Patriots leading 37-34. Johnson led the team with 17 points in the first half with Willis leading the Cowboys with 10 points.

The Patriots started the second half with a 13-2 run and never relinquished the

lead.

The Patriots continued to play well on both ends of the court, especially on the offensive end by shooting 64.3 percent in the 2nd half.

The team shot 50 percent for the game and finished with four people scoring in double figures. Johnson led the scoring for the Patriots with 22 points, which is a career high. He was 8-14 from the floor and 5-8 from behind the arc.

Kareem set his own career high with 11 rebounds. He also had 14 points, giving him his second double-double of the year.

### Fall 2008 Final Exam Schedule

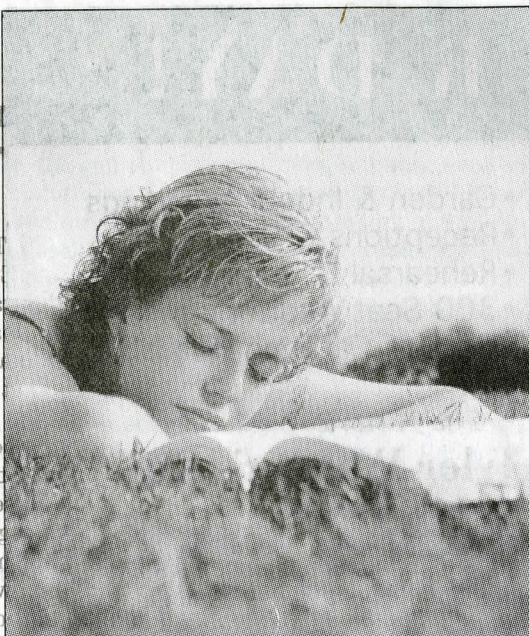
Regular Class Day/Time	Final Exam Day/Date	Final Exam Time
MWF 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	Wednesday, December 17	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
MWF 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	Friday, December 19	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
MWF 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.	Wednesday, December 17	10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
MWF 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Friday, December 19	10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
MWF 12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
MWF 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.	Friday, December 19	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
MWF 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
MWF 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	Friday, December 19	2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
MWF 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
M 8:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	Monday, December 15	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
M 11:00 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.	Monday, December 15	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
M 2:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.	Monday, December 15	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
M 5:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.	Monday, December 15	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
M 6:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Monday, December 15	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
M 7:00 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.	Monday, December 15	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
W 8:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	Wednesday, December 17	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
W 11:00 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
W 2:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
W 5:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
W 6:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 17	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
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F 2:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.	Friday, December 19	2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
F 5:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.	Friday, December 19	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
F 6:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Friday, December 19	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
F 7:00 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.	Friday, December 19	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
TR 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Tuesday, December 16	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
TR 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Thursday, December 18	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
TR 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Tuesday, December 16	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
TR 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Thursday, December 18	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
TR 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Tuesday, December 16	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
TR 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Thursday, December 18	3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
TR 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	Tuesday, December 16	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
TR 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Thursday, December 18	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
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R 7:00 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.	Thursday, December 18	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday exams will be December 15 for two hours starting at the regular class time.

# Have a great break

## 1st issue of the spring is Jan. 26

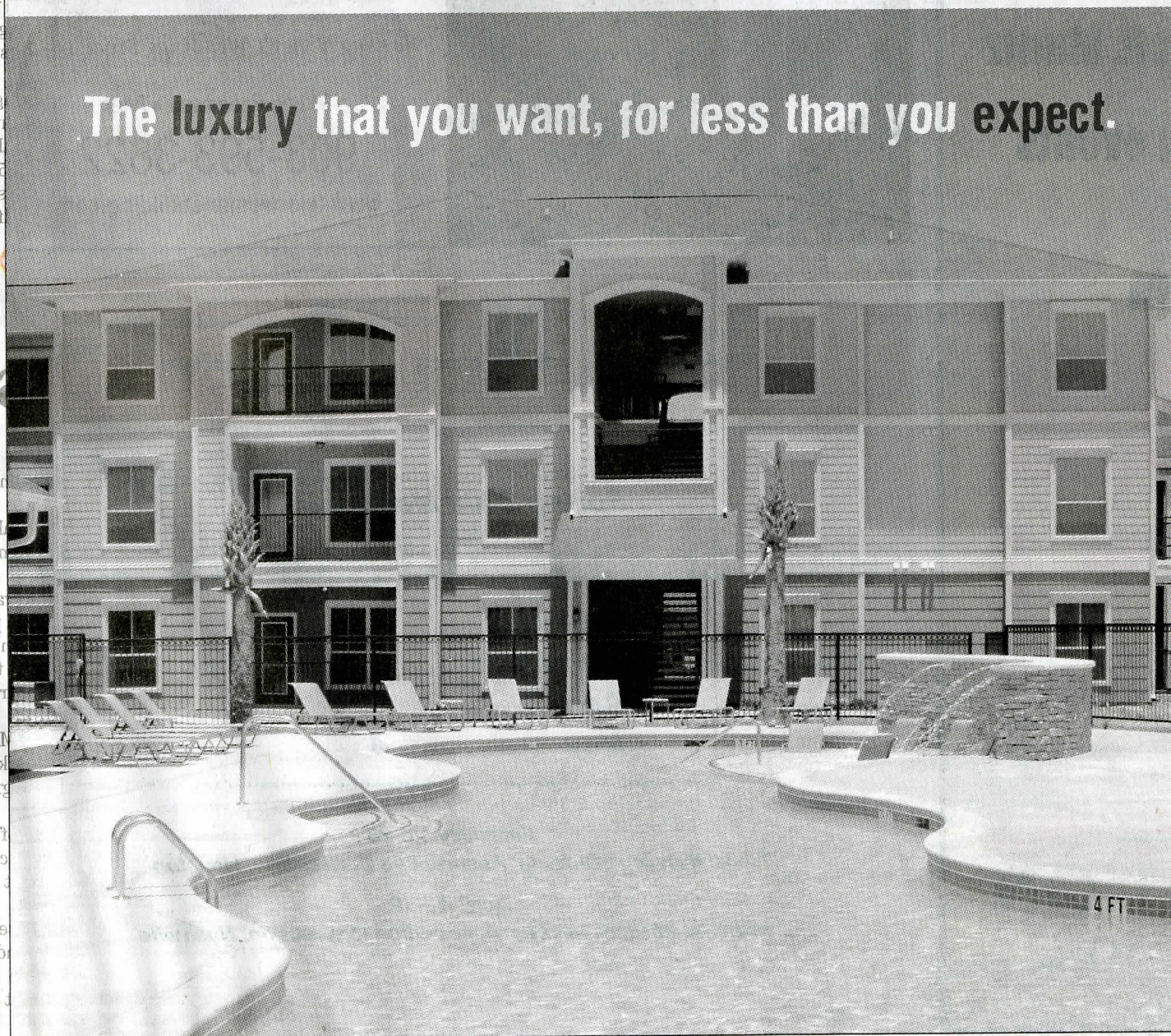




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# 10 » WIDE ANGLE

## Few health benefits from energy drinks; experts say look at ingredients first

**By Karli Tedford**  
Staff Writer

The end of the fall semester is an exciting time, and the holidays fast approaching. But with the stress of finals looming over every student, some take extreme measures to keep their focus.

According to a report from National Public Radio, teenagers and young adults spend about \$2.3 billion on heavily caffeinated drinks such as Monster, Rock Star and Red Bull, and the market continues to grow.

There is also Red Line, energy "shots," the "plus energy" option at Starbucks and Smoothie King. And there are the "healthy" fitness drinks, such as Vitamin Water and Propel.

When University of Florida toxicology professor Bruce Goldberger first began studying energy drinks in 2005, he found 10 brands.

"Now the market has blossomed and there's literally hundreds of energy drinks available," he said, in the npr.com article.

The health education Web site for Brown University has a special section for energy drinks, which they define as "drinks which contain large doses of caffeine and other legal stimulants like guarana and ginseng... These drinks are marketed to people under 30, especially to college students, and are widely available both on and off campus."

Even somewhat frequent consumers of these drinks should read along to learn more about the dangers – and benefits – of these beverages.

In Goldberger's research, he found that SoBe No Fear contains 141 milligrams of caffeine, which is the equivalent of five cans of Coca Cola.

Caffeine researchers who study the effects of the stimulant on the body say there's nothing alarming about the amount of caffeine in a single can, but when users begin consuming the drinks frequently and in larger quantities, problems may arise.

"Caffeine is the most addictive drug. And there is not substantial evidence behind other herbal supplements these drinks contain," Erin Chambers, a registered dietitian with Trinity Mother Frances Health System, said.

She said these drinks must be consumed in moderation, or else there may be withdrawal symptoms and significant health problems. Withdrawal symptoms can include headaches, mood swings, difficulty sleeping, dehydration, heart palpitations and more.

Another trend that Brown's Web site addresses is using energy drinks as mixers with alcohol, a combination that carries a number of dangers since energy drinks are stimulants and alcohol is a depressant.

"The stimulant effects can mask how intoxicated you are and prevent you from realizing how much

alcohol you have consumed," according to the site. "But once the stimulant effect wears off, the depressant effects of the alcohol will remain and could cause vomiting in your sleep or respiratory depression."

Both energy drinks and alcohol are very dehydrating, which can hinder a body's ability to metabolize alcohol and will increase the toxicity, and therefore the hangover, the next day.

The marketing claims such as "improved performance and concentration" tend to be misleading, because different bodies respond to caffeine differently.

Brown's health education Web site suggests thinking of the products as "highly-caffeinated drinks," which may help prevent misuse of the beverage by consumers.

Redline energy drink is becoming a more visible option on campus, but some users drink it under the assumption that it's a "superdose" of B-12 vitamins.

However, a quick, close read of the label would reveal much more than that: "Not for use by individuals under the age of 18. Never exceed 5mL in a single dosage."

The warning label even suggests starting with 2.5 mL which is one fourth of the bottle. Now imagine how many people don't read the label and chug down the full 10 mL in one sitting.

Redline is manufactured by VPX, who markets the product as a "radical combination of novel ingredients" that provides "hours of energy for sports, going out, or just a pick me up in the middle of the day!"

"A good rule of thumb is, if you don't know what an ingredient is, you shouldn't drink it," Chambers said.

The "radical" and "novel" list of ingredients in Redline sounds like something out of an advanced chemistry class: caffeine, Evoburn (pure Evodiamine), N-acetyl-L-tryptophan, Yerba Mate, Green Tea, 5-HTP, Vinpocetine, Yohimbine HCL, Carmine Red, Liquid Red.

Chambers said Vitamin Water is also a "red flag" beverage, in that it is marketed as a healthy alternative to water.

Although the drink is fortified with vitamins, she said it does not make up for the large amount of sugar, and therefore calories, in the drink.

"Consuming empty calories will lead to weight gain," Chambers said.

One serving size is about 50 calories, but there may be two or three servings in these bottles.

"Basically, it all boils down to moderation," Chambers said.

Consuming one Rock Star energy drink before a late-night study session won't hurt, but think twice before the next Yeager Bomb or Redline.

## Horoscopes - Dec. 8

**Today's Birthday (12-08-08)** You'll take action this year, instead of just thinking about it. You'll make good decisions, too. You'll put in the research hours. No more procrastination. Make things happen. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** – Today is an 8 – You can see for miles and miles. Everything seems possible. Get over there and check it out. Projects begun now have a better chance of success.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** – Today is a 7 – Your status in the community is rising, but not from what you say. People are noticing what you're doing and that it actually works. Even keeping a low profile, you're attracting attention.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** – Today is an 8 – You and your friends have what it takes to win at this competition. They provide the energy and you provide the plan. Better have something figured out.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** – Today is a 7 – A complicated request causes temporary consternation. You end up doing very well at this task, however, so don't even worry. You'll perform brilliantly.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** – Today is a 10 – Make big plans and start on them now. Push your agenda forward. This goes for fun as well as for business. One great idea leads to another.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** – Today is a 5 – The smart money's staying hidden away until the best bargains appear. This works in your business as well as your private life. It's becoming fashionable to appear that you have less than you have.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** – Today is an 8 – Your partner has a great idea and lots of good suggestions. Be kind and listen attentively, even if you don't agree. You may be convinced to change your mind.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** – Today is an 8 – Make your career move now. Show people what you can do for them, how well and by when. Your success is not about advertising, it's about producing results.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** – Today is a 9 – You have a way with words, especially now. You're so charming, you can get just about whatever you want. Use your power responsibly. No trickery.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** – Today is a 7 – Go ahead and buy those few things you've been wanting for your home. Get yourself a few special treats while you're out there, too. Scented candle? Fancy chocolates? Yes.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** – Today is an 8 – You have a talent for making complex subjects seem almost simple. At least, it's apparent you understand them, and that's a comfort. Help out a confused friend.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** – Today is a 7 – You're better at giving than receiving. You're charming that way. But don't get stuck fretting about what you deserve; just cheerfully take what you get. It's expected, and it's polite.

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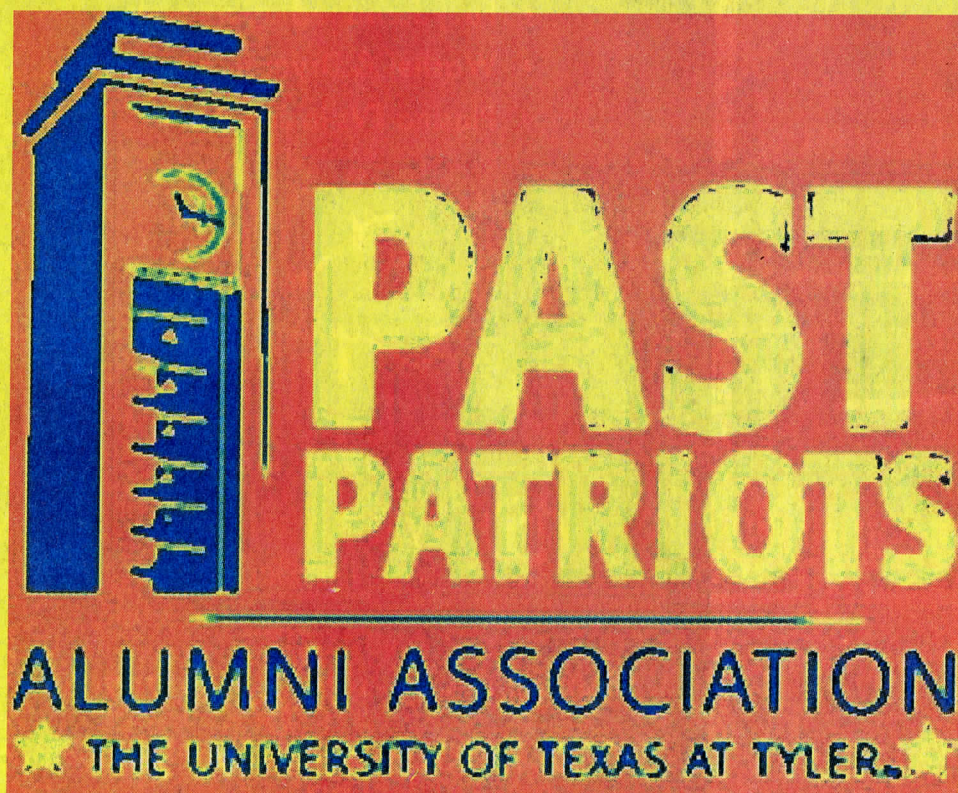
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## **S**tudent **N**urses **A**ssociation

### *Spring 2009 Meetings*

<i>January</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>4</i>

*February 26-28*

*Texas Nursing Students' Association Convention, Houston*

*April 15-19*

*National Student Nurses' Association Convention, Nashville*